

Remarks

Applicants request entry of the amendments. The amendments place the application in better form for appeal or in condition for allowance.

Applicants have amended claim 32 by replacing the phrase "peptide compound" with the phrase "isolated human polypeptide" and adding the functional language "which inhibits the interaction between PAP1 and parkin." (See Examiner's comments at pages 3-4.) Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification, for example at page 5 lines 8-10 and page 6 lines 27-30. Applicants have amended claims 53 and 59 to reflect the proper antecedent basis to claim 32. Further, Applicants have added claims 66 and 67, which are directed to pharmaceutical compositions comprising a polypeptide as claimed in claim 39. Claim 39 has been allowed. Support for these new claims can be found in the specification at page 5, line 5 and page 17 lines 22-24.

Claims 32, 39, 53, 59 and 66-67 are pending after entry of the amendment.

No new matter enters by these amendments.

Claims 32, 33, 53 and 59 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly containing subject matter that was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants note that claim 33 has been canceled. Applicants submit that the specification clearly describes the human PAP1 sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 as well as variants that are 95% homologous to SEQ ID NO: 2, such as SEQ ID NO: 15. The listing of these sequences alone clearly shows that applicants were in possession of the subject matter claimed at the time of filing. However, applicants have adopted the Examiner's suggestion and have amended claim 32 by replacing the phrase "peptide compound" with the phrase "isolated human polypeptide" and adding the functional language "which inhibits the interaction between PAP1 and parkin."

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 32, 53 and 59 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for allegedly failing to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use variant PAP1

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molecules with no distinguishable and assayable functional characteristics. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that a person of skill in the art would know how to make and use a peptide with at least 95% identity to SEQ ID NO: 2 because the ability to make and use altered amino acid sequences within this identity range was well known in the art at the time the application was filed. Also, the specification provides examples of altered amino acid sequences with this level of sequence identity (see SEQ ID NO: 15 and 13). The Patent Office has presented no credible evidence to the contrary.


Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

The application is in condition for allowance. Timely notification of allowability is requested.

If there are any additional fees due with the filing of this document, including fees for the net addition of claims, applicants respectfully request that any and all fees be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1129. If any extension of time request or any petition is required for the entry of this paper or any of the accompanying papers, applicants hereby petition or request the extension necessary. The undersigned authorizes any fee payment from Deposit Account No. 50-1129.

Respectfully submitted,
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